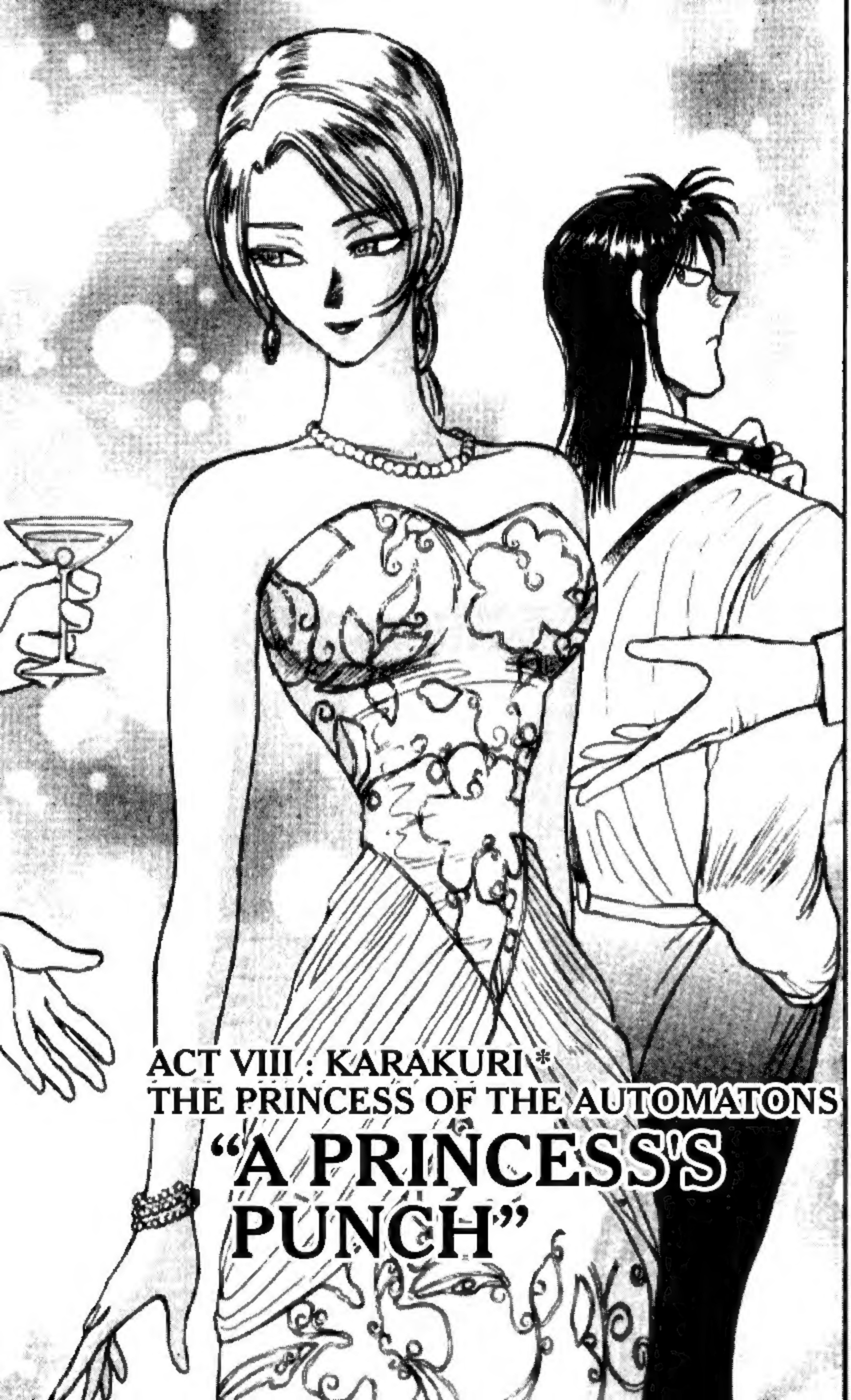

ACT VIII : KARAKURI *
THE PRINCESS OF THE AUTOMATONS

"A PRINCESS'S PUNCH"

THERE YOU GO! THAT'S THE LAST ONE!

NARUMI...

THANKS.

HERE, HAVE A DRINK!

NICE GOING, MAN! THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO CLEAN EVERYTHING UP QUICKLY!

...GUY?! YOU'RE DONE ALREADY?!

SHE LOOKS LIKE A SIMPLE VILLAGE GIRL.

IF PEOPLE HEARD THAT THE PRINCESS WAS SIMPLY WALKING AROUND TOWN,

THAT WOULD COMPLICATE THINGS FOR US...

SO? DID YOU FIND THE SOFT STONE IN HER BODY?

NO.

...THERE IS NO SOFT STONE IN HER BODY!

WE EXAMINED HER BODY, ANALYZED HER BLOOD AND CHECKED AQUA VITAE LEVELS IN HER BREATH... EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL.

IN CONCLUSION ...

GUY AND I WILL THINK ABOUT IT.

THE AUTOMATONS CERTAINLY ATTACKED HER THINKING THAT THE STONE WAS IN HER BODY.

SO... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE CAN'T REALLY WRITE "NO STONE HERE" ON HER FOREHEAD!

FOR NOW, PLEASE DO NOT TELL MY FATHER ANYTHING.

HM...

CRAP!

I DON'T LIKE GIRLS LIKE THAT !!!

HUH ?!

HER HIGHNESS WAS VERY CLEAR. I BELIEVE IT'S A DIRECT ORDER... YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER!

... WHAT?! BUT...

GO!

I WOULD LIKE TO STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER.

TAH

I'LL ALLOW YOU TO CALL ME ELISE.

BAH... SO...

DON'T CALL ME PRINCESS HERE.

... HEY!

PRINCESS, WHY DON'T YOU WANT US TO INFORM YOUR FATHER?!

OK, WHATEVER ...

HE'S NOT KING, BUT "PRINCE CONSORT"!

FINE... ELISE, THE KING IS GONNA WORRY IF YOU DON'T TELL HIM WHERE YOU ARE!

"I'LL ALLOW YOU"?!

YOU SAVED ME ONCE! YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN!

IT'S DANGEROUS! SOME BAD PEOPLE MIGHT TRY TO HURT YOU! YOU'VE GOTTA GO BACK QUICKLY!

GRR GRR

GRRR... YOU LITTLE ...

DO NOT WORRY... EVEN IF YOU CANNOT, I WON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU!

BECAUSE OF THAT, I WOULD LIKE A LITTLE FREEDOM AND TIME BY MYSELF.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE BEEN OUT ALONE...

HEY! IT'S FRANCIS!

?

QUICK! HIDE!

THEY SAW US!

BAH... THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAID THAT WE HAD SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE THE PRINCESS AT HOME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! OUR PRINCESS CAN'T BE WALKING AROUND IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THAT!

AND WITH A WEIRD-LOOKING ASIAN!

YOU SEE?! I TOLD YOU, FRANCIS!

WELL... I DON'T THINK... THAT YOU'RE THE REAL PRINCESS.

SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BECAUSE... YOU'RE MUCH PRETTIER!

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

YOU'RE RIGHT...

LOOK! THAT'S NOT HER AT ALL!

HE HE

...*"Weird-looking"?!*

HI HI

BUT... SHE LOOKS LIKE A DOLL.

SHE DOESN'T LAUGH LIKE YOU.

THE PRINCESS IS PRETTY TOO...

...AH?

SAY, DO YOU KNOW OF A BARBER AROUND HERE?

IT'S TRUE...

YES...

HE HE HE! WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING, FRANCIS?!

I'VE NEVER SEEN MR. SCHWARTZ SO NERVOUS...

WHY IS SHE DOING THAT?

UH... YES.

ARE YOU JAPANESE, MISTER?

YES!

...MISS! ARE YOU SURE?! YOU REALLY WANNA CUT THEM?

THAT'S HEAVY!

OOF...

VLOM

VLOM

I'M NOT AGAINST THAT KIND OF STEREOTYPE, BUT...

SO YOU GOTTA BE STRONG IN KARATE, RIGHT? ALL JAPANESE DO EITHER KARATE OR JUDO!

When I was a kid, I thought every French person wore a beret and walked around with a French baguette under the arm...

AT LEAST, THEY HAVE THE SAME ORIGIN...

IT'S TRUE THAT KUNG-FU KINDA RESEMBLES KARATE...

I'D LIKE TO LEARN TO USE IT FOR REAL!

SOMEONE GAVE IT TO MY DAD.

IT'S A SANDBAG!

SHOW US HOW TO DO IT!

...THEN, KEEP YOUR BODY STRAIGHT... AND...

BLA, BLA

I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO STYLE SUCH A PRETTY YOUNG LADY! I'LL KEEP THE MEMORY UNTIL I DIE... THANK YOU!

THERE ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WATCHING US...

HE'S REALLY JAPANESE!

AWE-SOME!

OOOHH!

BAM

PLEASE TEACH ME TO PUNCH.

MY TURN NOW.

HM?

HA HA! THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T ALIGNING YOUR ARM AND YOUR FIST...

I HAVE OFTEN PUNCHED MY PILLOWS... BUT I HAVE ALMOST ALWAYS ENDED UP HURTING MY HAND!

YOU KNOW... A GIRL LIKE YOU DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW HOW TO PUNCH...

YOU'RE DONE GETTING YOUR HAIRCUT?

WOW...

HEUM

WHAT A DIFFER-ENCE!

...WHEN THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY I WANT, I GET ANGRY.

ME TOO...

I SEE...

...

TO PUNCH, YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE YOUR FIST STARTING FROM THE LAST FINGER...

YES...

SHOW ME.

THE BACK OF YOUR HAND HAS TO BE ALIGNED WITH YOUR ARM, OR ELSE YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF...

...CAN'T BE ALL THAT EASY.

BEING A PRINCESS...

YES!

YOUR TURN NOW... GIVE IT A TRY!

NOT AT ALL!

DON'T YOU THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE PRINCESS ELISE?

DID YOU SEE THAT PRETTY GIRL THERE?

Hey

SPAF

I THINK YOU'RE RATHER GIFTED.

ME?

OOHH!!

NOT BAD! THAT WAS A GOOD SOUND!

AH? IS THAT RIGHT?

I'M SO HAPPY!

AH...

HERE, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE SEE A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU!

I SELL ICE CREAM OVER THERE. LET ME OFFER YOU ONE!

THANK YOU!

NAH, CAN'T BE THE PRINCESS!

HER HIGHNESS ALWAYS LOOKS SO MUCH COLDER.

THIS GIRL LOOKS NICE.

BLA

BLA

BLA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

HE! HEEE!

Girls have to be strong, too!

THIS IS GOOD...

SLURP

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS SAID THAT TO ME.

"A NICE GIRL"...

IF YOU WERE DEAD, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LEARN ALL THESE NEW SENSATIONS ...

CRUNCH

IT'S ALL RIGHT ...

...SORRY. YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE ME.

I AM..

NO.

ON THE CONTRARY... YOU WERE CORRECT.

CAN'T BE EASY BE'N A PRINCESS EVERY DAY.

SORRY I TOLD YOU YOU LOOKED LIKE A MANNEQUIN.

I WAS WRONG.

HM, I SEE... ACTUALLY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT A PRINCESS'S LIFE WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

BUT EVEN A PRINCESS LIVES IN THE SAME TIME AS OTHER YOUNG WOMEN. WHEN I SEE OTHER WOMEN LEADING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIVES FROM MINE ON TV... I FEEL A BURNING DESIRE TO LIVE LIKE THEY DO!

AH?

I WAS BROUGHT UP LIKE A PUPPET, AND I HAD TO ASSUME ALL THE DUTIES INCUMBENT TO THE DAUGHTER OF A PRINCE.

I NEVER HAD THE RIGHT TO DISAGREE WITH MY FATHER OR TO EXPRESS MY TRUE FEELINGS... WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I STOPPED THINKING ON MY OWN.

A LONG TIME AGO, I WITNESSED...

...A STRANGE EVENT...

...INVENTED BY A BARON.

I WAS THERE WITH MY FATHER... I WAS TEN.

MY STRANGE PRINCESS EDUCATION HAD STARTED.

HE HAD DECIDED TO BURN...

...ALL THE MANNEQUINS HE WAS NOT USING ANYMORE. PEOPLE WERE DRINKING AND DANCING AROUND THEM.

...LIKE ONE OF THOSE MANNEQUINS THAT WERE BURNING.

I SAW MYSELF BEING FED ALL THIS INFORMATION AGAIN AND AGAIN...

I WAS TAUGHT THE TRADITIONS, HISTORY AND ECONOMY OF MY COUNTRY, HOW TO GOVERN IT, THE PROPER ETIQUETTE FOR A PRINCESS, THE TRADITIONAL DANCES AND A NUMBER OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES...

...I WOULD FINALLY NO LONGER BE THE DAUGHTER OF A PRINCE... JUST A PILE OF ASHES.

...WOULD START BURNING, WITHOUT A NOISE...

...HOPING THAT ONE DAY, ALL THOSE THINGS..

I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THIS LIFE...

SO I KEPT ALL MY FEELINGS BOTTLED UP DEEP INSIDE MYSELF...

AT THAT TIME...

...AND THAT IT... WOULD BURN ME AS WELL!

IT'S TOO SILLY!

WHY DIDN'T I...

...HAVE THAT DARN STONE IN MY BODY?!

GUY SAID THAT AFTER EXTRACTING THE STONE FROM YOUR BODY, YOU COULD HAVE LIVED JUST LIKE BEFORE.

...A NEW LIFE COULD HAVE STARTED FOR ME, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MY FATHER HAD IN MIND.

IF YOU HAD FOUND IT...

YOU KNOW... A WHILE AGO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY THE WORST LITTLE PEST...

AND... DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?

...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

BUT I DID NOT WANT TO! I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO JOIN YOU! IT WOULD BE SO MUCH FUN!!!

OH!

YES! NOW, YOU'RE THE CUTEST SHORT-HAIRED LITTLE PEST I KNOW!!!

I TOLD YOU I DID NOT WANT TO GO BACK AT PRESENT!

ARE YOU READY?

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT...

PRINCESS ELISE...

...GUY?

ALL SHE WANTS IS A LITTLE REST! WE COULD'VE JUST KEPT HER WITH US UNTIL TOMORROW!!!

GUY!

HIGH-NESS!

!!

ALL I SEE IS THAT SHIROGANES REALLY HAVE NO HEART!

TAN TAN

SHIROGANES DO NOT PLAY BABYSITTER... EVEN FOR A PRINCESS!

DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND, NARUMI...

COME, YOUR HIGHNESS!

NO! LET ME GO!

NARUMI!!!

BLACKOUT